Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

752 F
ES
-2

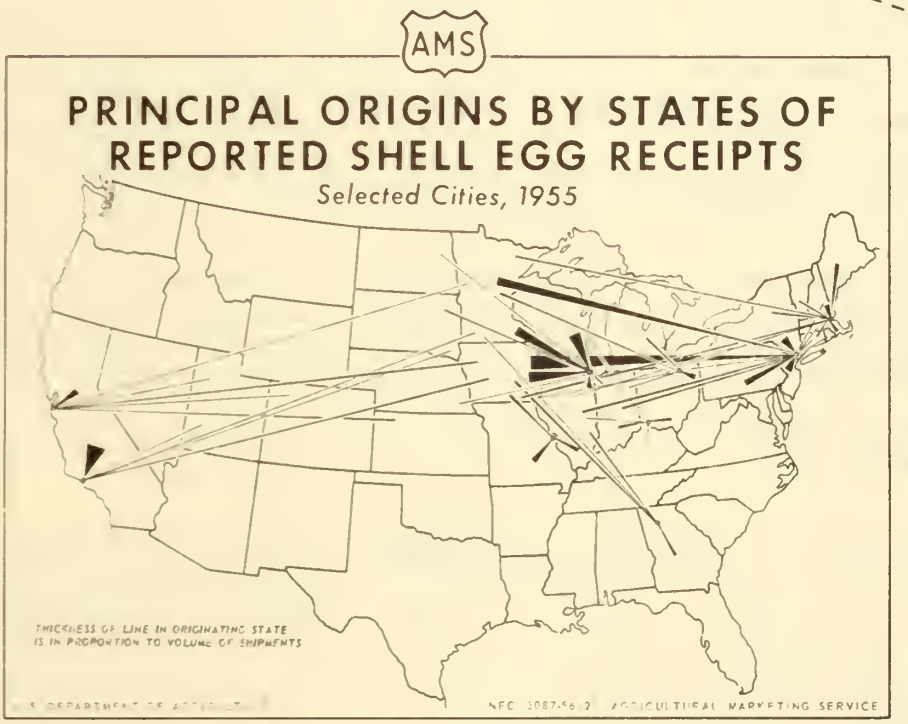
FOR RELEASE
MAR. 16, P. M.
1956

The POULTRY and EGG SITUATION

PES-182

LIBRARY
APR 5 1955
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In this issue:
Revisions of Poultry Estimates
Weekly and Monthly Poultry Slaughter



Every large city obtains an important part of its egg supply from nearby sources, but additional supplies must often be drawn from distant States, particularly in months of short supply. This map, based on shell egg receipts reported by USDA's Dairy and Poultry Market News, shows the most important sources of eggs for several cities. However, it does not indicate shipments totaling less than 10,000 cases in 1955 from a State to a particular city. Also, nearby receipts which by-pass the wholesale market channels may not have been fully reported.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1945-54 1/	1955 2/	1956 3/	Month or date	Average 1945-54 1/	1955 2/	1956 3/	Comments on current situation
					EGGS					
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Jan. 4/	402.2	436.2	430.1	Feb. 4/	419.1	408.1	427.8	Larger than last February even after allowance for leap year
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	Jan. 5/	387.7	390.1		Feb. 5/	378.7	379.1		
		Jan. 4/		338.1	330.5	Feb. 4/		328.5	323.7	
		Jan. 5/	12.7	14.8		Feb. 5/	13.6	14.6		
Rate of lay per layer	Eggs	Jan. 4/		15.1	15.6	Feb. 4/		14.9	15.9	
Apparent disappearance of shell eggs per civilian	Eggs	Nov. 4/	27.7	30.1	29.5	Dec. 4/	29.7	32.0	6/ 30.8	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	Dec.	4.0	9.8	2.8	Jan.	14.0	20.2	6.2	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	Dec.	2.7	1.3	0.4	Jan.	3.8	1.9	0.7	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Jan.	42.6	32.2	46.6	Feb.	38.7	39.5	40.2	Slightly above last year
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Jan.	91	74	109	Feb.	92	99	103	Recent prices above parity
Retail price (AMS)	Ct. per doz.	Dec.	67.7	51.5	66.2	Jan.	60.7	50.1	65.7	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Jan.	11.6	8.5	13.7	Feb.	10.7	10.4	11.8	
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	Jan. 1	217	193	111	Feb. 1	216	235	296	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	90.2	74.9	74.4	Feb. 1	69.8	66.2	51.6	Continued to decline in February
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Dec.	62.1	87.0	118.8	Jan.	86.6	111.1	149.9	
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions									
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt.	Jan.	3.74	3.80	3.39	Feb.	3.67	3.80	3.40	
					POULTRY					
Price received by farmers for chickens, live:										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	28.2	24.3	20.3	Feb.	27.6	25.2	21.4	) Prices reflect large mar-
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	25.1	15.6	19.3	Feb.	25.3	18.8	19.9	) ketings of broilers
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	26.9	22.2	20.1	Feb.	26.8	23.7	21.0	)
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	Jan.	96	76	72	Feb.	96	81	75	
Retail price of broilers and fryers dressed (AMS) 7/	Ct. per lb.	Dec.	51.3	45.7	46.9	Jan.	50.9	48.0	47.1	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	35.6	26.4	31.0	Feb.	34.6	28.1	31.4	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	179.6	148.9	133.4	Feb. 1	162.2	127.3	118.7	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	105.5	121.0	95.0	Feb. 1	112.4	124.0	96.5	Lowest for month since 1949
Broiler-feed price ratio 8/	Lb. feed	Jan.	---	4.7	4.2	Feb.	---	4.9	4.4	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Jan.	9.7	6.9	9.1	Feb.	9.6	7.4	9.2	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 22 important States	Millions	Jan.	---	16.0	21.4	Feb.	---	20.1	23.5	Highest monthly average on record

1/ Except where data are for November and December, in which cases averages are for 1944-53. 2/ Except where data are for November and December, in which cases the year is 1954. 3/ Except where data are for November and December, in which cases the year is 1955. 4/ Revised. 5/ Unrevised. 6/ Preliminary. 7/ The 10-year averages in this line are not precisely comparable to the averages for the individual months, since prior to April 1949 this item was reported as "chickens," and since then as "broilers and fryers." 8/ This differs from the chicken-feed price ratio appearing in this table prior to PES-176.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 12, 1956

SUMMARY

A larger and earlier hatch of chicks for laying flock replacement than in 1955 is in prospect for 1956. January hatchery output of replacement chicks was 26 percent above last year. On February 1, the number of eggs in incubators for the production of egg laying type chicks was 21 percent above a year earlier. The percentage increases are likely to be smaller in the principal hatching months of March, April, and May. However, there is considerable likelihood that the number of replacement chicks raised this year will exceed 1955 by more than the 3 percent indicated by farmers' intentions in early February.

Egg production on March 1 was 2 percent larger than a year earlier. Production now is approaching the seasonal peak, but in early March commercial egg breaking and storage of eggs in the shell had not yet reached the levels likely to be attained later in the season. In the absence of strong demand so far for commercial breaking or storage, egg prices declined in late February, but rose somewhat in early March. In mid-February, the average price to farmers was 40.2 cents per dozen, a seasonal decline of 6.4 cents from the month before, but 0.7 cents above a year earlier. In the spring of 1955, egg prices declined after March to 33.8 cents in May and June.

Monthly egg production to mid-year will probably be close to year ago, while production thereafter will depend on the extent of the increase in the replacement hatch now under way.

The average weekly rate of broiler placements has increased in each month since September and the number of birds maturing in March is probably record for the month. April and May supplies will likely be even larger, by about 5 and 10 percent respectively. Mid-February broiler prices to farmers averaged 21.4 cents per pound live, compared with 25.2 cents in mid-February 1955. However, feed prices are also lower than in 1955. The mid-February broiler-feed price ratio of 4.4 (pounds of mash which can be bought with the value of one pound of broiler) compares with the ratio of 4.9 a year earlier.

The turkey hatching season has opened with a sharp increase in output of heavy-breed poults, and a decline in hatchings of light-breed birds. For the season as a whole, production may be reasonably close to farmers' January intentions to raise 14 percent more heavy-breed turkeys than the 47 million of 1955, and 16 percent fewer light-breed birds than the 16 million of last year. This would average out to a 6 percent increase from the 63 million birds raised in 1955. Present turkey storage stocks are the lowest for the season since 1949. February 1956 prices averaged above last year.

An article in this issue indicates the basis and extent of current and forthcoming revisions in poultry production statistics. The change in production estimates has forced corresponding revisions for the estimates of per capita consumption of eggs, which are shown in table 18 of this issue. Corresponding tables will follow for chicken and turkey.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Early Hatch for Replacement Chicks

Twenty-six percent more replacement-type chicks were hatched in January than last year, and 21 percent more eggs for the production of egg-laying type chicks were in incubators February 1. These indicators of the early hatch considerably exceed the 3 percent increase over 1955 in chickens raised indicated by farmers' intentions about February 1. In 1955, 16 percent of the replacement chicks were hatched in January and February (table 1).

In interpreting these percentage increases, it should be remembered that hatchings of chicks for laying flock replacement are usually smaller in January and February than in March, April, and May. Furthermore, the proportion of last year's hatch occurring in January and February was unusually small as a result of the low egg prices in the fall of 1954 (table 2). Consequently, the percentage increases over 1955 in hatchings in March, April, and May probably will be smaller than in the first 2 months of this year.

On the basis of present data (which, however, are subject to revision: see a later section of this report), the number of chicks hatched for laying flock replacement in the spring of 1956 will exceed 1955 but is not likely to reach the 1954 level. Table 1 compares 1954 and 1955 monthly hatchings, and shows 1956 data to date.

Dut to the larger number of hens in the laying flock this year than last, a slightly increased number of replacement pullets could be absorbed into the laying flock this fall without resulting in a net increase in the number of layers in farm flocks. This, of course, is due to the fact that few hens are kept for a third laying year, while about half of the pullets housed in a given fall are evidently retained as hens the following year.

The 121½ million hens on farms January 1, 1956, were 10 million more than a year earlier. If it is assumed that none of these 10 million extra hens will remain on January 1, 1957, whereas from 10 million pullets there would have been 5 million surviving as hens on that date, the conclusion emerges that about 5 million extra pullets could be put into the laying flock this fall without creating a new increase in numbers of layers. This in itself would absorb the effects of a 2 or 3 percent increase over the (unrevised) 1955 number of 524 million chickens raised.

Table 1.- Chicks: Commercial hatchery production with available breakdowns, 1954 to date

Month	Monthly production			Percentage change from previous year	
	For broilers	For flock replacement	Total	For broilers	For flock replacement
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.
1954 1/					
January			140		
February			191		
March	107	201	308		
April	112	192	304		
May	109	111	220		
June	95	34	129		
July			111		
August			100		
September			98		
October	74	12	86		
November	76	11	87		
December	71	16	87		
Total 2/			1,861		
1955					
January	79	32	111	n.a.	n.a.
February	95	67	162	n.a.	n.a.
March	105	148	252	-2	-27
April	115	156	270	4	-19
May	121	96	217	12	-23
June	112	32	143	17	- 7
July	110	13	124	n.a.	n.a.
August	96	12	108	n.a.	n.a.
September	86	13	98	n.a.	n.a.
October	92	16	108	25	n.a.
November	95	15	109	25	n.a.
December	102	17	119	44	n.a.
Total 2/	1,207	615	1,821		
1956					
January	109	41	150	38	26
February					

1/ For 1954, breakdown derived by application of published percentage change figure as shown in last columns.
2/ Computed from unrounded data.
n.a. - Not available.

Table 2.- Indications of changes in monthly distribution of replacement chicks during hatching season, 1952 to date

Item and year	Unit	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
Hatchery output of chicks for farm flock replacement							
Percentage of previous year							
1952	Pct.	112	104	92	74	52	
1953	do.	97	99	102	107	127	
1954	do.	118	117	109	94	76	
1955	do.	n.a.	73	81	77	93	
1956	do.	1/					
Young chickens on farms for flock replacement, first of month							
Number							
1952	Mil.			217.8	381.6	477.4	462.9
1953	do.			214.9	379.2	470.8	464.2
1954	do.			254.9	409.6	504.2	475.9
1955	do.			183.9	332.4	415.3	n.a.
Young chickens on farms for flock replacement, first of month							
Percentage of previous year							
1952	Pct.			108	94	91	91
1953	do.			99	99	99	100
1954	do.			119	108	107	103
1955	do.			72	81	82	n.a.

1/ On February 1, 1956, eggs in incubators for replacement-type chicks were 21 percent more than a year earlier.

n.a. - Not available.

Table 3.- Chicks hatched and eggs set for laying flock replacement, California, weekly rates, October 1955 to date, with comparisons

Period	Weekly rates			
	1954-55		1955-56	
	Eggs set	Chicks hatched	Eggs set	Chicks hatched
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
October	752	561	1,100	836
November	926	523	1,104	766
December	1,132	664	1,399	818
January	1,526	950	1,494	1,094
Week ending:				
February 4	1,852	1,125	1,427	1,194
11	2,100	1,146	1,755	1,132
18	1,960	1,235	1,707	1,244
25	2,097	1,328	1,828	1,133
March 3	1,749	1,510	1,611	1,316
10	1,868	1,449		
17	1,682	1,553		
24	1,804	1,329		
31	1,643	1,362		
April	1,316	1,211		
May	1,166	899		

Table 4 .- Chickens raised and related data, 1925 to date

Year	Chickens raised	Egg-feed price ratio (weighted average) 1/	As a percentage of previous year: Intentions to raise chickens 2/	Egg-feed price ratio 1/	Chickens raised	Young chickens on farms Oct. 1	Pullets laying and not yet laying on farms Jan.1 following
	Mil.	Lb.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1925	679	12.9		102	103		
1926	718	13.5		105	106		
1927	750	13.4		99	104		
1928	700	12.2		91	93		
1929	751	13.1		107	107		
1930	777	13.8		105	104		
1931	709	10.6		77	91		94
1932	736	11.6		109	104	107	103
1933	750	14.3		123	102	99	100
1934	644	10.9		76	86	86	89
1935	658	11.4		105	102	105	107
1936	715	13.1		115	109	113	110
1937	601	9.4		72	84	86	86
1938	651	11.4		121	108	113	113
1939	697	12.6		111	107	105	105
1940	634	10.4	96	83	91	98	94
1941	745	11.5	109	111	118	113	116
1942	844	13.2	112	115	113	108	115
1943	1,001	14.7	116	111	119	114	110
1944	832	11.2	83	76	83	82	86
1945	890	12.8	96	114	107	114	107
1946	738	11.9	86	93	83	81	87
1947	719	11.3	94	95	97	100	99
1948	615	9.8	80	87	86	90	93
1949	705	12.7	107	130	115	108	111
1950	635	9.6	88	76	90	95	90
1951	663	11.4	96	119	104	105	101
1952	617	9.1	90	80	93	90	91
1953	609	11.3	96	124	99	106	107
1954	620	10.9	100	96	102	99	101
1955	3/524	9.7 (9.4)	82	89	3/85	90	93
1956		4/ (12.9)	103				

1/ Weights are as follows: Preceding November, 1; preceding December, 2; January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1.

2/ Literally, intentions to purchase chicks for laying flock replacement, as surveyed about February 1 and reported in February Crop Production.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ For 1956, November through February; comparable 1955 in parenthesis.

Egg Prices Declining Seasonally

The mid-month average egg price received by farmers was 40.2 cents in February 1956, compared with 46.6 cents in January, and 39.5 cents in February 1955. Wholesale price quotations in late February showed further seasonal declines, but in early March they rose slightly.

Production is increasing toward the seasonal peak which usually occurs about March or April. However, the low point of prices and high point of production do not necessarily coincide (table 5). In 1955, the mid-month low in farmers' egg prices occurred in January, with another trough occurring in May-June. In 1954 the "springtime" low was in June, but the low of the year came in October.

The general level of egg prices this spring depends upon (a) the attitude and price expectations of commercial egg breakers; (b) the price level at which shell eggs for storage will find an acceptable hedge in the futures market; and (c) the outlook for egg supplies and prices in the fall. The third of these factors will be directly affected by the size of the hatch now in progress. All three, however, are related.

Springtime production of shell eggs always exceeds current consumption, and the remainder is stored either in frozen or dried form or in the shell. In recent years, storage of frozen egg has typically accounted for a larger number of eggs than storage in the shell, but the quantity of shell eggs stored has varied more from year to year. Because the seasonal excess over immediate consumption must go to storage, storage demand is an important factor affecting springtime egg prices.

At the beginning of March, commercial breakers were not yet breaking more eggs than were being used. At that time, there was still a net decline in 35-city storage stocks from week to week. (There are no weekly statistics on frozen egg production.)

The direction and rates of change in stocks of frozen egg in 35 cities can be computed from data in table 7. These suggest that the rate of commercial egg breaking is increasing later and at a slower rate this year than in any of the past 4 years. When egg breakers undertake large-scale operations, their purchases of eggs frequently have strengthening effects upon egg prices.

The quantity of shell eggs stored depends considerably on the seasonal egg price change expected by storers. However, instead of estimating the fall egg price, storers can accept the level of prices of the future contracts which are available to them as a hedge. The difference between that price and the current price during the into-storage season measures the market's expectation of the seasonal egg price rise (table 6).

Table 5 .- Eggs: Production, prices, and related factors, 1954 to date

Month	Average number of layers on farms during the month		Egg production on farms 1/		Mid-month average price received by farmers, per dozen	First-of-month storage stocks		
	Unrevised	Revised 1/	Number, as reported	Case equivalent		Shell	Frozen, case equivalent 2/	Total
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Ct.	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases
1954								
Jan.	382.6	---	5,094	14.2	46.3	0.1	1.1	1.2
Feb.	372.4	---	5,000	13.9	45.7	.1	1.0	1.1
Mar.	360.1	---	5,922	16.5	38.7	.1	1.1	1.2
Apr.	345.1	---	5,617	15.6	35.0	.4	2.4	2.8
May	330.4	---	5,453	15.1	33.1	.7	3.5	4.2
June	317.0	---	4,728	13.1	33.0	1.3	4.3	5.6
July	309.1	---	4,350	12.1	34.5	1.6	4.8	6.4
Aug.	318.8	---	4,172	11.6	37.4	1.4	4.7	6.1
Sept.	350.1	---	4,196	11.7	33.8	1.0	4.2	5.2
Oct.	380.1	---	4,581	12.7	32.4	.8	3.6	4.4
Nov.	393.9	---	4,708	13.1	33.9	.6	3.1	3.7
Dec.	397.5	---	5,112	14.2	32.7	.3	2.5	2.8
1955								
Jan.	390.1	338.1	5,234	14.5	32.2	0.2	1.9	2.1
Feb.	379.1	328.5	4,897	13.6	39.5	.2	1.7	1.9
Mar.	367.4	318.6	5,735	15.9	39.7	.3	1.6	1.9
Apr.	352.7	306.2	5,648	15.7	35.9	.5	2.2	2.7
May	338.4	293.6	5,579	15.5	33.8	1.2	3.3	4.5
June	326.2	282.7	4,951	13.8	33.8	2.1	4.4	6.5
July	318.7	276.2	4,617	12.8	35.2	2.3	5.0	7.3
Aug.	322.8	279.6	4,295	11.9	39.4	2.2	5.1	7.3
Sept.	347.1	299.4	4,245	11.8	43.8	1.7	4.7	6.4
Oct.	373.6	320.7	4,631	12.9	42.9	1.1	4.0	5.1
Nov.	385.7	331.2	4,677	13.0	43.4	.8	3.3	4.1
Dec.	386.6	333.6	4,976	13.8	47.1	.3	2.6	2.9
1956								
Jan.	---	330.5	5,161	14.3	46.6	0.1	1.9	2.0
Feb.	---	323.7	5,134	14.3	40.2	.3	1.3	1.6

1/ Revised, post-Census.
2/ Converted on basis of 38.5 lbs. frozen equivalent to 1 case shell eggs.

Table 6 .- Egg prices, selected dates, 1955, with comparisons

Item	1955					1956		
	Jan. 14	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 15	May 16	Jan. 16	Feb. 15	Mar. 7
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
U. S. average price received by farmers, per dozen	32.2	39.5	39.7	35.9	33.8	46.6	40.2	
Iowa prices received by farmers per dozen 1/:								
Grade A Large	25-26	2/36-39	35-36	2/31-33	28-30	37-38	32-34	32-34
Grade A Medium	20-22	33-34	32-33	28-30	26-28	34-36	29-31	30-31
Current receipts	24	2/33-34	32-33	30	2/27-29	---	---	---
New York, wholesale prices								
Midwestern, mixed colors per dozen:								
Fancy heavy-weights	33½-34½	47-48½	42½-43	41-42	38-39	46-47	42½-43½	43½-44½
Extra 1, medium	32-33	45½-46	41½-42	39-40	35-35½	44-45	41-41½	42-43
Nearby whites, per dozen:								
Extra fancy, heavy-weights	35-36	49-50	46-47	45-46½	38-39½	51-52	43-44½	44½-47
Medium	33-34	47-47½	43½-44	43-44	35-36	48-50	42-42½	43-44
Small (pullets)	28½-29½	---	---	35-36	31½-32½	44½-45	---	---
Frozen egg, per pound 3/:								
Mixed whole egg, spring pack	25½-27	31-33	30-32	30½-32½	28-31	33-34½	33-34	32½-33½
Yolk 4/	53-54	53-54	55-56	52-54	51½-53	54-55	54-55	52-54
Albumen	15-17	20-21	19½-22	19-21	18½-20½	27-28½	27-29	26-29
Chicago								
Wholesale price, per dozen:								
Mixed colors, extras, Large	32-32½	44½-45	39-39½	39-39½	34½-35	42-42½	40-40½	40-40½
Future contracts:								
September delivery (closing price)	38.85	46.70	44.30	44.75	41.70	45.50	44.30	44.20
San Francisco, wholesale price, per dozen:								
Grade A, Large	43½-44½	50½-51½	45½-46½	40½-41½	40½-41½	51½-52½	44½-45½	45½-46½
Grade A, Medium	42-42½	50-50½	44-44½	39-39½	39-39½	50-50½	41-41½	45-45½

1/ "Mostly," except where otherwise stated: Friday of given week through February, 1955; thereafter, prices are for given dates. 2/ Complete price range; not mostly." 3/ Carlots. Weekly price. 4/ Highest color quoted.

Table 7 .- Eggs, shell and frozen: Total cold-storage stocks in 35 principal cities, end of each week during the into-storage season, 1950 to date

Week ending 1/	Stocks of shell eggs							Stocks of frozen egg: In pounds							Stocks of frozen egg: In case equivalent						
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases
Jan. 1:	2/56	2/16	2/66	115	50	140	84	30	25	35	29	23	43	43	799	647	915	754	585	1,104	1,112
7:	80	19	74	92	44	165	72	2/29	22	33	26	22	40	40	2/786	575	860	685	564	1,050	1,040
14:	119	23	89	82	37	189	68	31	20	32	24	21	39	37	823	515	831	633	548	1,006	968
21:	226	27	123	74	36	194	73	32	19	31	22	20	38	35	857	485	816	580	525	987	899
28:	336	47	175	2/71	32	186	207	34	18	31	21	20	37	32	917	479	807	539	507	959	827
Feb. 4:	447	93	296	88	30	178	255	37	19	2/31	2/20	20	35	29	976	491	2/798	2/525	517	941	762
11:	529	113	435	108	2/28	165	265	40	2/18	31	21	2/19	30	28	1,000	2/470	813	550	2/494	928	727
18:	574	109	561	130	55	2/152	258	43	19	33	22	20	36	27	1,146	492	815	583	514	934	695
25:	621	115	690	141	77	159	247	46	19	35	24	21	35	36	1,227	505	916	620	535	911	666
Mar. 3:	712	110	791	158	106	166	248	52	20	37	26	23	35	[illegible]	1,374	527	971	668	598	912	642
10:	796	121	914	171	150	185		57	23	40	28	27	2/35		[illegible],532	586	1,044	728	710	2/902	
17:	873	135	1,019	176	203	222		63	25	44	32	32	36		1,675	661	1,142	823	839	939	
24:	975	175	1,107	201	255	265		70	30	48	34	38	39		1,861	773	1,245	878	991	1,001	
31:	1,096	249	1,189	222	321	334		78	36	51	38	44	43		2,068	941	1,329	977	1,142	1,108	
Apr. 7:	1,231	337	1,243	277	337	426		82	41	56	41	50	47		2,179	1,076	1,451	1,074	1,292	1,222	
14:	1,397	445	1,345	338	367	543		88	48	61	46	56	52		2,339	1,259	1,582	1,192	1,456	1,341	
21:	1,591	562	1,469	430	428	689		93	54	65	51	62	56		2,467	1,414	1,698	1,321	1,603	1,467	
28:	1,819	686	1,640	527	486	877		97	61	68	55	67	61		2,582	1,587	1,779	1,435	1,751	1,588	
May 5:	2,051	841	1,832	620	602	1,076		100	68	72	60	73	67		2,670	1,755	1,877	1,562	1,889	1,741	
12:	2,279	1,073	2,039	738	756	1,256		101	75	76	65	77	73		2,703	1,948	1,982	1,692	2,005	1,896	
19:	2,498	1,258	2,226	850	857	1,430		105	81	81	70	82	79		2,790	2,101	2,097	1,818	2,141	2,051	
26:	2,631	1,396	2,333	950	955	1,568		107	88	85	75	85	84		2,845	2,281	2,199	1,936	2,219	2,173	
June 2:	2,718	1,501	2,435	997	1,016	1,664		110	94	89	79	89	88		2,932	2,443	2,309	2,040	2,309	2,287	
9:	2,780	1,565	2,489	1,021	1,120	1,725		3/112	99	93	81	93	93		3/2,991	2,578	2,441	2,112	2,411	2,408	
16:	3/2,808	1,607	3/2,509	1,050	1,162	1,775		112	104	96	85	97	97		2,988	2,696	2,482	2,195	2,525	2,522	
23:	2,785	1,628	2,496	3/1,054	1,202	1,780		112	106	98	88	100	100		2,982	2,743	2,558	2,284	2,609	2,597	
30:	2,754	3/1,642	2,438	1,047	3/1,219	3/1,783		111	109	101	91	104	103		2,948	2,836	2,625	2,358	2,698	2,687	
July 7:	2,656	1,621	2,349	1,033	1,200	1,782		109	3/110	102	3/91	106	105		2,912	3/2,852	2,639	3/2,371	2,741	2,733	
14:	2,559	1,582	2,213	991	1,151	1,769		107	109	3/102	91	3/106	105		2,852	2,841	3/2,639	2,357	3/2,766	2,733	
21:	2,442	1,545	2,095	935	1,084	1,760		105	109	100	89	106	106		2,804	2,833	2,596	2,305	2,762	2,763	
28:	2,348	1,508	2,027	859	1,031	1,728		103	107	98	88	106	3/107		2,738	2,775	2,544	2,275	2,762	3/2,783	
Aug. 4:	2,270	1,457	1,930	802	979	1,675		101	106	97	86	104	107		2,687	2,744	2,513	2,221	2,710	2,773	
11:	2,184	1,356	1,843	718	916	1,584		99	104	95	84	102	107		2,637	2,700	2,465	2,170	2,660	2,772	

1/ Dates given are for 1956: entries for the other years are for the corresponding weeks.
2/ Season low of holdings.
3/ Season peak of holdings.

Table 8 .- Eggs: Weekly receipts at selected markets, December, 1955 to date with comparisons

Week ending 1/	Total, 4 cities 2/			Boston			New York			Chicago			Philadelphia			Los Angeles		
	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases
Dec. 3	219	237	229	27.4	36.9	29.6	97.7	98.3	109.4	70.0	77.1	60.2	23.6	24.6	29.9	36.2	n.a.	41.1
10	212	236	197	26.7	34.2	30.3	96.7	102.7	88.8	63.3	72.9	52.1	24.9	26.1	26.2	36.4	49.2	38.5
17	213	224	219	25.7	29.5	26.5	99.6	96.1	103.2	60.0	73.2	64.7	27.5	24.9	24.4	42.6	45.9	49.2
24	189	196	204	25.7	31.5	27.1	91.5	74.9	92.3	52.2	62.4	57.5	19.9	27.0	27.3	29.0	43.8	43.5
31	200	236	188	26.2	36.0	24.4	85.2	113.6	91.2	64.8	61.8	50.7	23.6	24.1	21.4	33.9	45.8	36.5
Jan. 7	244	257	204	31.4	33.4	25.2	109.4	112.0	102.8	75.3	86.3	51.5	27.4	25.2	24.4	43.6	43.6	34.7
14	221	262	247	23.7	31.8	28.8	95.5	106.1	123.0	75.9	96.2	69.6	25.9	27.4	25.8	39.2	47.8	49.2
21	210	232	247	26.6	28.6	29.8	87.2	102.1	107.1	71.5	71.0	78.2	24.3	29.8	31.9	38.6	62.3	42.7
28	229	199	359	26.9	28.2	27.4	105.1	85.9	111.3	70.1	59.9	187.6	27.0	25.4	32.3	39.1	54.2	41.4
Feb. 4	218	226	242	26.0	28.8	24.7	96.5	107.5	100.0	69.3	64.0	92.6	26.3	25.7	25.0	34.8	49.1	49.4
11	202	195	217	24.2	26.9	26.7	82.9	85.9	95.3	66.5	57.8	66.3	28.5	24.6	28.5	42.4	37.1	51.2
18	244	204	233	29.7	30.8	26.9	120.3	84.9	109.4	67.3	65.2	72.1	26.3	23.4	24.4	32.7	40.7	42.9
25	216	204	222	25.5	26.9	26.4	98.7	90.3	103.7	67.4	63.4	61.4	24.2	23.6	30.6	34.7	38.6	36.6
Mar. 3	230	221		27.6	29.3		95.2	92.2		80.7	74.0		26.8	25.1		35.2	40.4	
10	258	239		29.8	29.2		112.5	106.6		88.9	72.2		26.6	30.8		38.5	42.0	
17	249	240		26.8	28.8		111.9	107.0		83.4	75.7		26.4	28.5		38.3	41.0	
24	256	262		29.0	28.8		110.9	112.4		86.7	92.3		29.7	29.0		44.1	48.0	
31	259	270		27.6	29.2		112.6	115.6		93.1	95.0		25.7	30.0		44.4	46.8	
Apr. 7	271	311		30.3	33.6		113.1	114.3		99.7	134.3		27.9	29.2		39.1	41.6	
14	244	294		28.5	28.0		99.4	98.8		86.9	140.0		29.4	27.0		42.2	42.6	
21	232	312		27.7	29.5		95.3	108.9		81.8	146.6		26.8	27.5		44.9	43.1	
28	266	323		30.5	30.4		108.9	105.4		95.0	162.9		31.6	24.6		45.0	43.6	
May 5	292	332		33.6	28.7		122.6	106.0		104.8	169.6		31.4	28.1		47.0	43.9	
12	284	343		30.7	28.2		111.6	107.9		117.2	179.9		24.9	27.3		47.6	48.3	
19	278	318		27.4	26.9		102.5	98.5		120.8	168.5		26.9	24.4		41.0	47.6	
26	278	284		28.0	29.8		107.9	86.8		114.3	140.7		28.1	26.6		46.0	45.1	
June 2	253	229		26.1	23.4		93.7	80.2		108.2	102.5		25.0	22.9		36.8	37.1	
9	265	237		28.3	30.2		97.0	74.1		115.3	107.5		24.7	24.8		43.8	44.5	
16	234	209		28.0	28.3		89.0	68.5		93.5	87.0		23.9	25.3		41.0	42.7	
23	227	198		28.3	25.6		94.5	61.6		79.0	85.4		25.0	25.5		47.3	45.4	
30	216	233		28.5	24.4		93.3	101.4		69.4	81.2		24.3	25.7		74.3	40.8	
July 7	184	200		23.3	23.8		86.9	91.8		52.5	61.3		21.6	23.4		36.3	30.3	
14	179	202		27.0	25.2		81.5	86.5		48.0	67.7		22.2	22.5		40.0	49.1	
21	176	187		24.5	24.9		74.8	80.1		52.0	57.9		24.7	24.5		46.9	45.3	
28	173	180		25.7	26.2		80.1	77.5		43.5	54.8		23.6	22.0		37.9	46.8	
Aug. 4	170	176		23.4	23.1		80.3	85.3		44.8	48.8		21.7	18.7		40.0	39.0	
11	181	180		25.5	25.5		92.0	88.1		44.7	47.6		19.0	18.7		40.2	34.7	
18	178	168		25.6	23.3		89.8	79.2		41.6	43.9		20.6	21.9		39.2	34.7	
25	186	168		26.5	26.0		90.8	72.4		45.7	47.5		23.1	21.6		41.8	41.5	

1/ Dates are for 1956: Other years, comparable weeks.
2/ Boston, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia.
n.a. - Not available.

Other things being equal, low springtime egg prices tend to make storage attractive. In part, this is because low springtime egg prices would discourage laying flock replacement, thereby reducing fall egg supplies and enhancing expected egg prices. But increased demand thus generated for eggs for storage would tend to raise current egg prices, which in turn would cut the prospective spread between spring and fall prices by possibly inducing a larger hatch.

The early March level of egg prices was below a year earlier. However, after mid-March 1955 egg prices declined to levels considerably below current levels. In 1955, mid-month prices received by farmers in April, May, and June averaged 35.9, 33.8, and 33.8 cents per dozen respectively.

Compared with last February, February egg production this year was up 5 percent. (Almost 4 percentage points of this increase can be attributed to the extra day in the month: Leap year.) On March 1, production was 2 percent above the previous March 1. The number of layers March 1 was 2 percent below last March 1, but the rate of lay was 4 percent higher. To mid-year, monthly production will likely be quite close to a year ago, while production thereafter will depend upon the size of the replacement hatch.

Continued Large Placements of Broiler Chicks

The number of broilers reaching market age in the next 2 months will increase gradually in line with the upward trend in chick placements. Table 9 shows that the average weekly rate of placements in 22 important States has increased each month since September 1955.

December placements, which are the source of late February and early March marketings, were about 5 percent above the month before, the January rate of placements was almost 10 percent above December, and the February rate almost 10 percent above January. Reported settings of eggs in incubators indicate that placements in early March will be at a higher weekly rate than in February. These indications point to increasing supplies of broilers for slaughter through May.

Recent broiler prices have been near the levels of last fall, but below the average of the first 9 months of 1955. At 21.4 cents per pound in mid-February, the U. S. average price was 3.8 cents below last February, but one cent above the average of the 3 preceding months.

Price relationships among areas were unusual in February. Producer prices in California are usually higher than those east of the Rockies, but that was not the case during much of February. Also, Del-Mar-Va prices in February exceeded North Georgia prices by a wider margin than in other periods. The margin between live prices in Del-Mar-Va and dressed prices in New York were narrower than usual. Data for a week in mid-February, with comparisons, are shown in table 10.

Total broiler production in 1955 rose 3 percent from the 1954 figure of 1,000 million.

Table 9.- Broilers: Monthly hatchings, average weekly placements in specialized areas, and U. S. average farmers' prices, January 1954 to date

Month	Hatchings			Weekly rate of placements, 22 States			U. S. average mid-month price to farmers, per pound		
	1954 1/	1955	1956	1954	1955 2/	1956	1954	1955	1956
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
January		79	109		16.0	21.4	24.2	24.3	20.3
February		95			20.1	23.5	22.6	25.2	21.4
March	107	105			20.4		23.5	29.4	
April	112	115			22.1		24.3	28.6	
May	109	121			22.6		23.7	26.8	
June	95	112			22.8		24.4	27.3	
July		110			22.1		25.4	26.6	
August		96			19.4		24.9	26.8	
September		85			17.7		23.0	25.5	
October	74	92		3/14.4	18.5		21.0	22.3	
November	76	95		15.4	19.4		20.1	21.5	
December	71	102		14.0	20.5		19.2	19.4	
Total or average		1,207			1,050.2		23.0	25.3	

1/ Derived. See table 1 . 2/ Revised. 3/ Based on 3 weeks.

Table 10.- Broilers: Average prices per pound in selected producing areas and wholesale markets, late February 1956, with comparisons

Item and area	Weight class	Full week at mid-month 1/			
		1955		1956	
		Feb.	Oct.	Jan.	Feb.
	Pounds	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Live broilers sold by farmers					
Boston area	$3\frac{1}{2}$-$4\frac{1}{4}$	25.4	19.0	16.2	20.0
Del-Mar-Va	$2\frac{1}{2}$-$3\frac{1}{2}$	25.6	22.0	19.4	22.4
Shenandoah Valley	$2\frac{3}{4}$-$3\frac{1}{2}$	22.7	19.6	18.4	20.6
North Carolina, Cent.	$2\frac{1}{2}$-3	24.5	21.1	18.5	20.0
North Georgia	$2\frac{1}{2}$-$3\frac{1}{2}$	24.2	21.8	18.4	19.7
Texas, East	$2\frac{1}{2}$-3	24.9	22.4	19.7	20.5
Arkansas, N. W.	$2\frac{1}{2}$-$3\frac{1}{4}$	24.2	22.0	18.7	19.9
San Joaquin Valley, Calif.	"Fryers"	26.2	22.0	22.2	20.8
U. S. average	---	25.2	22.3	20.3	21.4
Dressed broilers at wholesale					
New York dressed					
New York	3	31.8	26.7	24.7	27.4
Ready-to-cook					
New York	2-3	42.0	36.4	33.8	36.3
Chicago	$1\frac{3}{4}$-$3\frac{1}{4}$	39.0	36.2	32.0	33.0

1/ Except U. S. average price, which is for mid-month.

Table 11.- Broilers: Weekly rates of chick placements, 22-State total and 4 important areas, current data with comparisons

Period	22 States			Del-Mar-Va			Georgia			Arkansas			Texas		
	1955-56			1955-56			1955-56			1955-56			1955-56		
	Chick placements	Eggs set in incubators 3 weeks previous	1954-55 chick placements	Chick placements	Eggs set in incubators 3 weeks previous	1954-55 chick placements	Chick placements	Eggs set in incubators 3 weeks previous	1954-55 chick placements	Chick placements	Eggs set in incubators 3 weeks previous	1954-55 chick placements	Chick placements	Eggs set in incubators 3 weeks previous	1954-55 chick placements
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
November	19.4		15.4	2,575		2,172	3,403		2,230	1,675		1,234	1,774		1,334
December	20.5		14.1	2,748		2,023	3,680		2,238	1,796		1,189	1,794		1,068
January	21.4		16.0	3,052		2,565	4,119		3,073	1,678		1,124	1,754		1,354
Week ending:															
Feb. 4	22.7	31.5	19.0	2,949	3,365	3,281	4,565	5,149	3,270	1,916	2,339	1,393	1,886	2,383	1,468
11	23.3	31.4	20.0	2,995	3,396	3,408	4,415	5,342	3,343	1,958	2,390	1,508	1,902	2,432	1,479
18	23.6	32.2	20.1	3,156	3,558	3,463	4,415	5,380	3,443	1,815	2,361	1,486	1,860	2,429	1,498
25	23.7	32.6	20.7	3,409	3,766	3,452	4,256	5,473	3,393	1,896	2,311	1,617	1,908	2,387	1,629
Mar. 3	23.6	33.2	20.4	3,434	3,836	3,230	4,388	5,617	3,543	1,857	2,245	1,583	1,930	2,378	1,584
10		33.3	19.8		3,859	3,012		5,587	3,618		2,210	1,609		2,334	1,526
17		34.3	20.0		3,987	2,906		5,758	3,643		2,241	1,628		2,348	1,594
24		35.2	20.7		4,180	3,110		5,936	3,742		2,425	1,735		2,433	1,664
31			21.6			3,179			3,892			1,937			1,646
April			22.2			3,222			4,117			1,918			1,758
May			22.6			3,302			4,216			1,918			1,802

Turkeys: More Heavy Breeds,
Fewer Light Breed Birds

Trends in poult hatchings to date this spring tend to confirm farmers' early-January intentions to grow 14 percent more heavy-breed turkeys than last year, but 16 percent fewer light breeds. This would average out to a 6 percent increase over the 63 million turkeys raised in 1955. Such an increase would make the 1956 crop of both heavy-breed turkeys and of all turkeys a record.

In the last 4 months of 1955 and in January this year, 1.5 million more heavy-breed poults were hatched than the 2.0 million in the same period a year earlier. February hatchings in 11 important States were 65 percent greater than last February, and egg settings in February were 36 percent above last year (table 12). However, hatchings in February were seasonally small. It is unlikely that the percentage increases for the important hatching months of April and May will be as large. Since last July 1, cumulative official monthly testings of heavy-breed turkeys for inclusion in breeding flocks have been 10 percent above the year before.

Last year's crop of 47 million heavy-breed turkeys raised was a record though an unknown number were slaughtered at weights more nearly comparable with those expected for light-breed turkeys. The birds thus slaughtered were principally white-feathered turkeys. Of the heavy turkeys tested since January, 25 percent have been white-feathered. Poults from such turkeys are likely to be slaughtered at lighter average weights than Bronze turkeys. In late February 1955, Minnesota began reporting white poults hatched and eggs set from white-feathered turkeys. Table 13 shows that the 1956 weekly rate of output in that State for such turkeys is far greater than in comparable weeks of 1955.

Much of the gain in large-breed white turkeys seems to have been at the expense of light-breed turkeys. If farmers carry out intentions to reduce production of light-breed turkeys 16 percent from the 16 million of 1955, output in 1956 would be the smallest since 1951. U. S. hatchings of light-breed turkeys in the 5 months ending with January were 2.2 million (41 percent) fewer than a year earlier, February hatchings in 11 States were 26 percent below 1955, and February egg settings in 11 States were 15 percent below a year earlier.

After their sharp rise in December 1955, most dressed turkey prices have held steady or have risen slightly. Average prices now are well above a year earlier, with frozen eviscerated heavy toms in New York at 53-55 cents per pound on March 7, compared with 44½-48 cents a year earlier. The U. S. average farmers' price of live turkeys in mid-February was 31.4 cents per pound, but marketings were seasonally low. Last February the price was 28.1 cents.

Table 12.- Turkeys: Hatchings and egg settings, weekly rates, 11 important States, December 10, 1955 to date with comparisons 1/

Item and week ending	1954-55			1955-56				
				Heavy breeds				
	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All turkeys	White-feathered	Other	Total	Light breeds	All turkeys
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Hatchings								
Dec. 10	61	299	360	83	61	144	167	311
17	125	346	471	130	58	188	190	378
24	94	280	374	134	95	229	180	409
31	143	333	476	152	107	259	202	461
Jan. 7	205	285	490	163	127	290	149	439
14	185	266	451	159	139	298	149	447
21	268	236	504	151	277	428	170	598
28	267	236	503	164	257	421	207	628
Feb. 4	396	226	622	194	381	575	170	745
11	415	215	630	202	498	700	158	858
18	569	212	781	231	727	958	165	1,123
25	674	239	913	218	962	1,180	167	1,347
Mar. 3	934	232	1,166	227	1,145	1,372	166	1,538
10	1,144	175	1,319					
17	1,300	188	1,488					
24	1,480	196	1,676					
31	1,691	245	1,936					
Apr. 7	1,845	211	2,056					
14	2,093	250	2,343					
Egg settings to hatch:								
Feb. 11	726	404	1,130	396	718	1,114	252	1,366
18	1,018	383	1,401	404	1,039	1,443	242	1,685
25	1,157	428	1,585	367	1,424	1,791	261	2,052
Mar. 3	1,655	428	2,083	387	1,791	2,178	283	2,461
10	1,964	326	2,290	419	2,112	2,531	281	2,812
17	2,291	339	2,630	553	2,649	3,202	301	3,503
24	2,444	323	2,767	565	2,852	3,417	336	3,753
31	2,849	424	3,273	617	3,198	3,815	359	4,174

1/ The 11 States are: Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Virginia, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Table 13.- Weekly turkey egg settings and poult hatchings, Minnesota, February 1956 to date, with comparisons

Week ending 1/	1955					1956				
	Heavy-breed turkeys			Light-breed turkeys	All turkeys	Heavy-breed turkeys			Light-breed turkeys	All turkeys
	White-feathered	Other	Total			White-feathered	Other	Total		
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
					(a) Hatchings					
Feb. 4	n.a.	n.a.	71	56	127	74	63	137	28	165
11	n.a.	n.a.	61	67	128	92	86	178	21	199
18	n.a.	n.a.	102	61	163	95	98	193	25	218
25	49	84	133	63	196	73	128	201	31	232
Mar. 3	59	109	168	52	220	85	150	235	30	265
10	73	172	245	36	281					
17	70	191	261	37	298					
24	61	287	348	35	383					
31	73	276	349	62	411					
Apr. 7	69	304	373	31	404					
					(b) Eggs set to hatch					
Feb. 25	n.a.	n.a.	240	113	353	135	191	326	52	378
Mar. 3	n.a.	n.a.	303	92	395	149	270	419	48	467
10	n.a.	n.a.	444	65	509	184	373	557	34	591
17	n.a.	n.a.	454	74	528	253	522	775	54	829
24	94	483	577	57	634	238	524	762	47	809
31	116	483	599	130	729	224	578	802	68	870

1/ Dates are for 1956; comparable data for weeks in 1955.
n.a. - Not available.

Present storage stocks of frozen turkey are lower than on any comparable date since 1949. At 90 million pounds on February 1, (actually January 31) they were 22 percent below a year earlier (table 14). These low storage stocks will be a price-sustaining factor for heavy turkeys for the next several months. Slaughter of heavy turkeys is seasonal, and except for breeder hens the heavy run does not begin until late summer or early fall. Even with the early hatch this year, storage stocks will be the principal source of heavy turkeys for some months to come.

Supplies of heavy-type turkeys for the late summer and early fall months of 1956 will be influenced by how long farmers keep breeder hens for egg production, and the extent to which heavy-breed birds are marketed at fryer-roaster weights. Prompt marketing of breeders and large marketings of fryer-roasters of the heavy white breeds could reduce the margin by which the 1956 crop will exceed the 1954 record.

Table 14.- Turkeys: Composition of storage stocks, available data, September 1953 to date

Classification	Percentage of total reported holdings, by weight					
	September 30			January 31		
	1953	1954	1955	1954	1955	1956
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Eviscerated tom turkeys	36	41	30	73	72	74
Eviscerated hen turkeys	45	46	55	8	18	17
Eviscerated broiler-fryer type turkeys	11	7	13	3	4	5
N. Y. dressed tom turkeys	5	5	1	15	4	3
N. Y. dressed hen turkeys	3	1	1	1	2	1
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Size of sample on which percentages are based	46	50	48	87	80	70
Total U. S. cold-storage holdings, same date	69	78	77	125	124	96

Institute of American Poultry Industries.

REVISIONS OF USDA POULTRY STATISTICS IN LIGHT OF 1954 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Extensive revisions of certain USDA poultry statistics are under way to align them with the findings of the 1954 Census of Agriculture. The principal Census finding which was not fully anticipated in the month-to-month USDA estimates was the 19 percent decline in the number of farms reporting chickens. Another finding of the Census which was not fully anticipated was the trend to larger sized flocks in which rates of output per bird are generally above those reported for small flocks.

The newly-revised data on production force the computation of new and sharply lower estimates of per capita egg consumption in 1951-55, and an insignificant increase in 1950. These are shown in table 18. The significance of the newly-indicated level of average per capita egg consumption will be discussed in a later issue.

Unfortunately there is only scant basis by which an independent check can be made to assess the validity of the revisions in the estimates. One possible source of check data is the record of egg receipts at terminal markets, another is the findings of consumer surveys from which indicated egg consumption in households can be compared with computed average per capita disappearance.

The changing structure of the egg marketing system in metropolitan areas complicates the interpretation of figures for the receipt of eggs in the reporting markets. For example, in the 4 cities Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, the 14.7 million cases of shell eggs received in 1948 were greater than in any year from 1949 through 1954, when annual receipts averaged about 11 million cases. But since 1948 there has been a decline in trans-shipments from Chicago to eastern points, there has been increased delivery through chain-store depots not in the traditional wholesale market areas where the reports of receipts are compiled, and, at least in the East, there has probably been increased direct delivery of nearby eggs by means which by-pass the traditional large-scale egg handlers. These complications make it difficult to use receipts data as a check on production or sales estimates.

As a further complication upon the use of receipts data to confirm or refute per capita consumption estimates, there is the fact that the population served from the reported receipts of each metropolitan area is changing. On one hand the cities and their suburban areas are growing, on the other hand new marketing systems are developing to serve them from sites distant from the central market.

Consumer survey data are somewhat more helpful as check material for judging the per capita disappearances. In 1948, for example, a nationwide USDA survey of food consumption in urban households indicated an average per person consumption of about an egg a day, averaging the responses during the 3 seasons of the year when the survey was taken. If the "invisible" egg consumption is added to this egg-a-day finding, to allow for commercially-broken eggs which the consumer gets in pastries, salad dressing, and otherwise, the sum would be quite close to the 384 eggs which USDA has computed as the average per capita disappearance for that year.

Tabulations are now being made from a similar consumer survey made in 1955. When its findings are available, they may serve, within a reasonable margin, as a check upon the present revisions in the data on egg production and disposition.

The revisions in production estimates do not make the USDA figures identical with the Census. Table 15 shows that even after revision of USDA estimates to take advantage of the previous Census of Agriculture, certain of the statistics have been quite far apart. When this situation exists, the higher of the variant numbers can usually be supported by independent check data, while, on the other hand, the lower number represents the findings of enumerations, either sample or complete, done in accord with a specific set of enumeration instructions.

As indicated by the blank spaces in the last column of table 15, many USDA revisions are still pending. In general, those series of data which are best substantiated by non-Census check data, or those, such as for turkeys, which are least at variance with the Census, will be changed least. Accordingly, reports such as those of chickens and broilers raised, which can be related quite closely to the reports on hatchery production, are likely to be changed only slightly on a U. S. total basis (for individual States, somewhat larger changes are possible, percentagewise). The hatchery reports, having no Census counterpart in the 1954 survey, will be revised only slightly. The poultry price reporting of USDA's Agricultural Estimates is also relatively unaffected by the Census.

The inventory numbers of chickens on hand, as reported by the 1954 and 1950 Censuses, provide bench-marks to which USDA estimates can appropriately be related. For this reason, the USDA numbers relating to numbers of layers on hand, and closely related series, are being revised downward. The revision is related to the extent by which the total number of poultry-keeping farms enumerated by the Census fell short of the number which had been assumed in the expansion of the figures obtained from the crop reporter sample.

At the same time, the Census revealed a greater-than-anticipated trend toward increased flock sizes. Egg production per bird in larger flocks typically exceeds that in small flocks. Accordingly, USDA figures on rate of lay are being revised upward. Consequently, egg production is being revised downward less than the numbers of layers.

Pending the publication of the entire set of revisions, some of the data now being published are not comparable to the 1951-54 estimates. However, the issue of current data on a post-Census base is always accompanied by year-ago data on a comparable post-Census base, so that comparisons with a year ago are valid. When the revisions are concluded, the year-to-year changes in production data will generally preserve the trends that were established in the numbers as originally issued, but they will move toward the new level rather than toward that originally reported. This is illustrated in table 16, which compares changes in January 1 numbers, 1950-55, for original and revised data for poultry and other classes of livestock.

Table 15.- Poultry items: Comparison of data from USDA and Census sources

Item	Unit	1949-1950 1/ Census	1949-1950 1/ USDA 2/ Pre-census estimate	1949-1950 1/ USDA 2/ Estimate after census revision	1954 Census	1954 USDA 2/ Pre-census estimate	1954 USDA 2/ Estimate after census revision
Sales from farms							
All chickens	Mil. head	588	945	954	957	1,422	
Broilers	Mil. head	---			786	1,060	
Other chickens	Mil. head	---			171	362	
Eggs	Mil. doz.	2,410	4,047	4,107	2,653	4,874	
Value of sales							
All chickens	Mil. dol.	568	934	940	689	1,035	
Broilers	Mil. dol.	---			553	753	
Other chickens	Mil. dol.	---			136	282	
Eggs	Mil. dol.	1,008	1,828	1,857	915	1,793	
Chickens on hand, age 4 months or over							
April 1, 1950	Mil. head	342	3/375.1	3/355.2			
Oct.-Nov., 1954	Mil. head				376	4/466.5	
Turkeys							
Birds over 4 months of age on hand							
April 1, 1950	Mil. head	2.8	5/3.9	5/3.3			
Kept for breeding							
during 1954	Mil. head				2.3	5/3.4	5/3.1
Heavy-breed	Mil. head				1.5	5/2.7	5/2.4
Light-breed	Mil. head				.7	5/.7	5/.7
Raised	Mil. head	36	42	41	63	66	
Heavy-breed	Mil. head				40	47	
Light-breed	Mil. head				23	19	

1/ Production and sales figures are for 1949; inventory figures for 1950.
2/ Closest comparable concepts estimated by USDA; see subsequent footnotes.
3/ Layers on hand April 1, 1950.
4/ Potential layers (layers and pullets not yet of laying age) on hand November 1, 1954.
5/ Breeders on farms at beginning of year.

Table 16.- Comparison of original and revised estimates, livestock and poultry on farms January 1, United States, 1950-55

Year	All cattle Orig.	All cattle Rev.	Cows 2 yrs. and older for milk Orig.	Cows 2 yrs. and older for milk Rev.	Stock sheep Orig.	Stock sheep Rev.	Hogs and pigs Orig.	Hogs and pigs Rev.	Horses and mules Orig.	Horses and mules Rev.	All chickens Orig.	All chickens Rev.	All turkeys Orig.	All turkeys Rev.
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1950	101	101	100	100	97	97	105	105	92	92	106	106	111	111
1951	105	105	99	99	104	104	107	106	91	90	97	94	99	98
1952	107	107	99	98	103	103	101	100	88	87	102	99	114	114
1953	107	107	103	102	99	99	85	83	89	88	96	93	91	89
1954	101	102	102	101	98	98	89	87	90	89	103	100	100	97
1955	101	101	99	98	100	100	113	112	91	90	101	98	103	99

Table 17.- Selected poultry statistics before and after 1954 Census revisions

(a) Annual data

Year	Hens and pullets on farms, January 1		Eggs laid during the year, per hen and pullet on farms January 1		Egg production on farms		
						Revised	
	Unrevised	Revised	Unrevised	Revised	Unrevised	Number	Case equivalent
	Mil.	Mil.	No.	No.	Bil.	Bil.	Mil.
1949	399.4	---	141	---	56.2	---	---
1950	423.8	423.8	139	139	58.7	59.0	163.8
1951	410.2	399.3	144	145	59.3	58.1	161.3
1952	419.9	397.2	145	146	61.0	58.1	161.3
1953	404.0	373.0	154	155	62.3	57.9	160.8
1954	413.6	371.0	158	159	65.4	58.9	163.7
1955	421.9	368.6	160	161	67.4	59.5	165.2
1956	411.0	359.7					

(b) Monthly data

Month	Average number of layers during the month		Eggs laid during the month, per layer		Egg production on farms		
						Revised	
	Unrevised	Revised	Unrevised	Revised	Unrevised	Number	Case equivalent
	Mil.	Mil.	No.	No.	Bil.	Bil.	Mil.
1955							
Jan.	390.1	338.1	14.8	15.5	5.8	5.2	14.5
Feb.	379.1	328.5	14.6	14.9	5.5	4.9	13.6
Mar.	367.4	318.6	17.9	18.0	6.6	5.7	15.9
Apr.	352.7	306.2	18.5	18.4	6.5	5.6	15.7
May	338.4	293.6	19.0	19.0	6.4	5.6	15.5
June	326.2	282.7	17.5	17.5	5.7	5.0	13.8
July	318.7	276.2	16.6	16.7	5.3	4.6	12.8
Aug.	322.8	279.6	15.2	15.4	4.9	4.3	11.9
Sept.	347.1	299.4	13.8	14.2	4.8	4.2	11.8
Oct.	373.6	320.7	13.9	14.4	5.2	4.6	12.9
Nov.	385.7	331.2	13.4	14.1	5.2	4.7	13.0
Dec.	386.6	333.6	14.1	14.9	5.5	5.0	13.8
1956 1/							
Jan.	---	330.5	---	15.6	---	5.2	14.3
Feb.		323.7		15.9		5.1	14.3

1/ Beginning January 1956, numbers issued on "revised" basis.

Table 18.- Eggs: Civilian per capita disappearance, shell by months and processed by years, 1938 to date, with revisions for 1950-55

Year	Shell													Processed 2/	Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total 1/		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1938	21.0	23.2	29.0	29.5	29.1	25.6	25.7	23.9	22.2	21.0	19.2	19.5	289	17	306
1939	21.2	23.2	28.9	28.6	27.3	25.4	25.8	24.0	22.5	22.0	20.5	21.1	291	18	309
1940	21.0	22.9	29.8	28.3	28.7	26.6	26.2	25.0	23.5	22.9	21.0	20.9	296	18	314
1941 3/	23.1	24.4	28.9	28.1	26.9	25.5	24.4	25.9	22.7	22.4	21.3	21.8	296	11	307
1942 3/	23.6	22.7	28.3	27.1	28.9	25.4	25.9	25.0	23.7	24.0	22.6	24.5	302	12	314
1943	25.7	25.0	30.6	27.4	28.5	26.6	27.4	27.9	25.4	26.1	25.2	27.1	323	19	342
1944	29.3	25.6	28.8	29.2	4/	27.7	28.2	27.4	28.0	26.4	24.3	26.4	322	28	350
1945	29.8	30.2	36.3	33.4	34.9	32.9	32.6	31.4	28.2	29.1	26.5	26.8	374	23	397
1946	31.4	28.5	33.5	31.9	31.8	28.0	28.9	28.0	28.6	28.0	26.6	29.2	254	20	374
1947	31.2	28.7	35.0	33.2	31.5	29.3	29.4	27.3	26.0	27.0	26.3	28.6	353	25	378
1948	30.0	30.5	34.6	31.9	30.7	28.5	28.5	27.9	27.2	28.5	28.0	29.7	356	28	384
1949	31.8	30.3	32.5	31.9	31.3	28.1	28.4	26.5	25.8	27.2	28.3	30.7	353	25	378
1950	33.3	29.7	32.9	32.1	29.8	28.1	28.8	27.6	27.5	29.9	29.0	31.3	359	25	384
1951	32.8	30.9	33.7	31.5	30.1	29.3	29.0	27.4	26.3	28.7	29.3	31.1	360	27	387
1952	32.8	30.3	33.5	32.4	30.9	27.8	28.0	26.4	25.4	28.6	29.4	32.0	357	28	385
1953	33.0	28.6	32.2	30.3	29.4	27.3	27.8	26.5	25.8	28.0	29.1	31.3	349	25	374
1954	30.9	27.8	30.8	29.9	29.6	26.3	27.0	26.7	26.4	28.9	30.1	32.0	346	25	371
1955 5/	30.8	27.5	30.5	28.6	28.0	26.4	26.8	27.0	26.8	28.9	29.5	30.8	342	24	366

1/ Monthly totals do not necessarily add to yearly figures due to rounding.
2/ Liquid, frozen, and dried egg (egg solids) converted to a shell egg equivalent.
3/ Civilian per capita disappearance is slightly understated because some shell egg purchases by U.S.D.A. were subsequently processed into frozen or dried egg and diverted from shell supply.
4/ This entry computes out to 20 eggs, which probably is a considerable understatement of the actual disappearance.
5/ Preliminary.

COMPARISON OF WEEKLY POULTRY SLAUGHTER REPORT AND OTHER DATA

Since the beginning of 1954, USDA has issued weekly data concerning the volume of poultry slaughtered commercially. The primary intent of these weekly data is to indicate the volume of current commercial supplies of poultry as an aid to orderly marketing. A possible additional use of the data is as a basis for anticipating the volume of supplies in the immediate future.

The accompanying charts illustrate some comparisons between the weekly slaughter data and other data which might be considered alternative sources of information about prospective volumes of marketing.

The first chart illustrates the close degree of correspondence between the 2 alternative reports as indicators of seasonality in poultry slaughter.

The second chart compares total commercial poultry slaughter as reported through the weekly "Commercial Poultry Slaughter Report" and monthly poultry slaughter as independently estimated in USDA's "Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production" (which estimates red meats as well as poultry). In this chart, the 1955 figures for both series are converted to percentages of their corresponding 1954 figures. The 1955 weekly figures average 5 percent higher than 1954; the 1955 monthly figures average 3 percent smaller than 1954. Changes in the components of total 1955 slaughter, as indicated by available statistics, are: Broilers, up 3 percent; turkeys, number raised, down 4 percent; chickens raised, down 15 percent; mature chickens sold, as yet unreported, but probably down in view of the greater retention of hens as layers.

For turkeys, the weekly slaughter report includes 4 classes and a total. 1/ Charts 3 and 4 relate to total slaughter and to slaughter of light-breed turkeys respectively. In the charts, weekly data regarding the total live-weight slaughter of the respective classes are compared with appropriately lagged data concerning the number of poults hatched. In every case, the data are converted to percentages of the corresponding item the year before.

There are several complications which may partially explain the non-correspondence between the respective series of data in each chart. One is the arbitrary nature of the time lag assumed between hatching and slaughter. However, the degree of correspondence between data from the 2 sources would not be materially improved if the line representing lagged hatchings were shifted either to the right or to the left. Another complication concerns the changing practices in the poultry industry regarding weights of turkeys at slaughter; but again no material change was effected when unpublished data on numbers of turkeys slaughtered were substituted for the published material which is based on live weight.

1/ Fryer-roasters, heavy-breed hens, heavy-breed toms, and light-breed hens and toms.

For the year 1955, the weekly slaughter report indicated a 10 percent decrease in turkey slaughter, with the sharpest declines among heavy-breed turkeys, which changed at different rates for the 2 sexes (toms, -14 percent; hens, -8 percent). Independently-derived USDA estimates of the number of turkeys raised in 1955 indicate an over-all decrease of 4 percent (head-count basis), including virtually no change in heavy breeds and a 15 percent reduction in light-breed turkeys.

Market price behaviour for turkeys in the last month or so of 1955 tended to substantiate the slaughter report, which shows, in chart 3, that supplies slumped below 1954, but the lagged hatchery data would have suggested otherwise.

Chart number 5 plots the weekly slaughter of all young chickens and the 13 area broiler chick placements of 10 weeks previous. Both series are converted to a percent-of-year-earlier basis. When thus converted, the principal disparity between the 2 series occurs in October, when marketings of farm-raised young stock are important. This class of poultry is included among "all young chickens" in the weekly slaughter report, but, because they are not commercial broilers, they are not represented in the weekly placement data.

The published weekly slaughter data concerning volume of young chickens, at least on a United States basis, do not appear to be precise enough to permit judgments about the possible acceleration or deferment of broiler marketings in response to anticipated price changes. Average weights per bird have recently been published on a U. S. average basis, however, and changes in weight from a long-time norm might eventually reveal departures from normal ages at marketing, particularly if data become available for local areas.

The weekly "Commercial Poultry Slaughter Report" is based on reports received by mail each week from plants with average weekly slaughter over 30,000 pounds live weight while in operation. There are approximately 660 such plants in the United States and estimated slaughter in these plants was equal to 62 percent of sales of poultry off farms in 1954. Poultry was also sold from farms to small plants, to retail outlets or consumers, or through live poultry marketing channels. The 461 commercial plants on the active list of reporting plants account for 78 percent of the slaughter in all commercial plants.

Monthly estimates of poultry meat production (slaughter) are intended to include all commercial poultry slaughter of chickens and turkeys sold from farms. Estimates of numbers slaughtered are based on available indications of marketings developed from information on inventories, intentions to raise, numbers raised, death loss, farm consumption, market poultry, and data on chick placements and current marketings in important producing areas.

Table 19.- Commercial poultry meat production (slaughter), and related items, January 1954 to date

(Including part of data for charts 1/)

Month, year	Commercial poultry meat production, ready-to-cook 2/	Broiler chick placements, 13 areas	Poult hatchings	
			Total, 4 months previous	Heavy breeds, 5 months previous
	Million pounds	Millions	Thousands	Thousands
1954				
January	245	63.8	453	123
February	234	59.5	433	11
March	253	69.6	736	25
April	263	68.5	1,651	65
May	315	67.9	3,037	345
June	307	64.6	5,047	1,217
July	316	65.6	11,155	3,374
August	354	61.2	16,199	9,369
September	441	56.2	16,744	13,855
October	530	51.4	10,767	13,449
November	542	51.9	3,892	7,743
December	442	49.3	1,426	1,446
1955				
January	244	55.8	715	88
February	215	62.0	736	25
March	238	68.6	1,220	61
April	246	71.5	2,194	179
May	310	76.4	2,519	539
June	310	75.6	3,745	1,196
July	322	75.5	8,724	2,652
August	353	66.7	14,352	7,644
September	428	59.3	16,908	12,635
October	529	64.4	11,373	14,546
November	521	64.9	4,150	8,814
December	427	71.0	1,523	1,945
1956				
January	301	75.7	557	279

1/ Remainder of data - from Weekly Commercial Poultry Slaughter Report - are in 1954-55 summary of that report, issued January 16, 1956.
2/ Chickens (including broilers) and turkeys only.

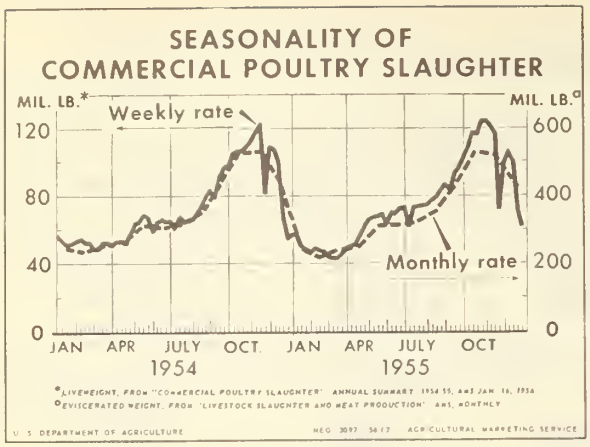


Figure 1

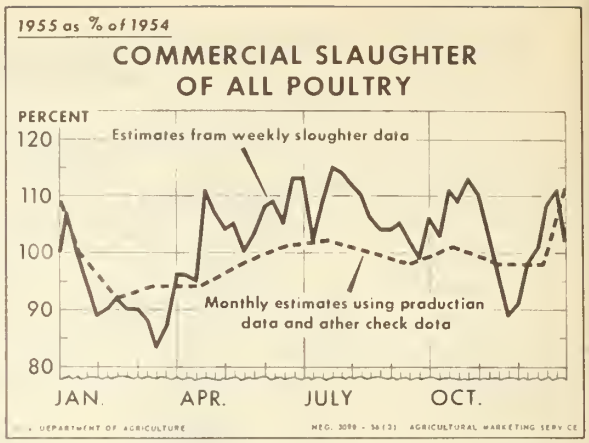


Figure 2

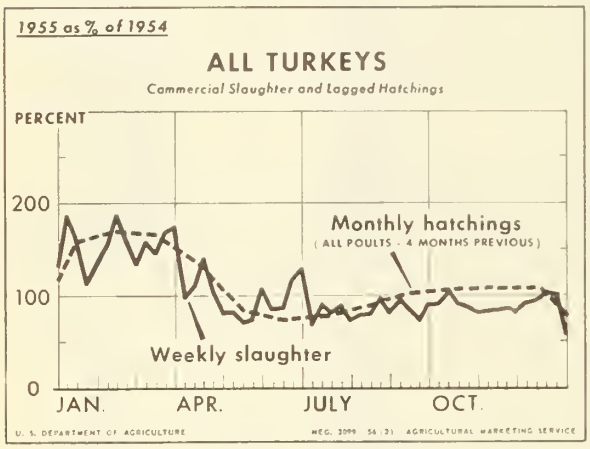


Figure 3

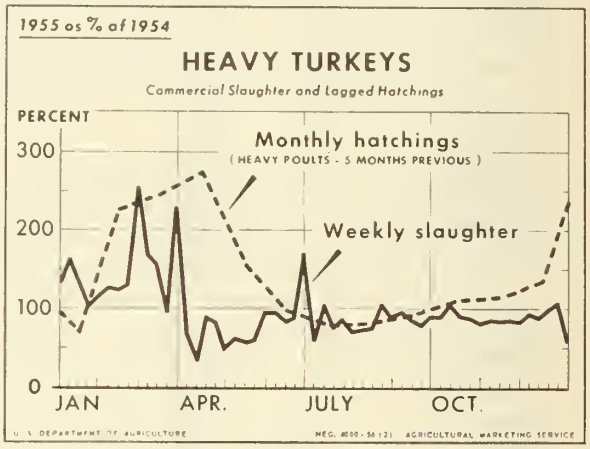


Figure 4

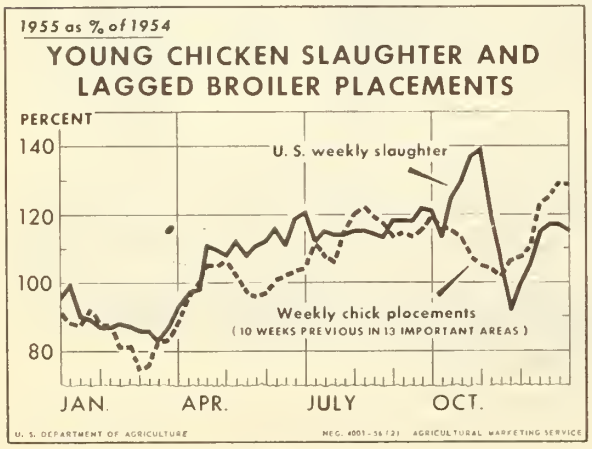


Figure 5

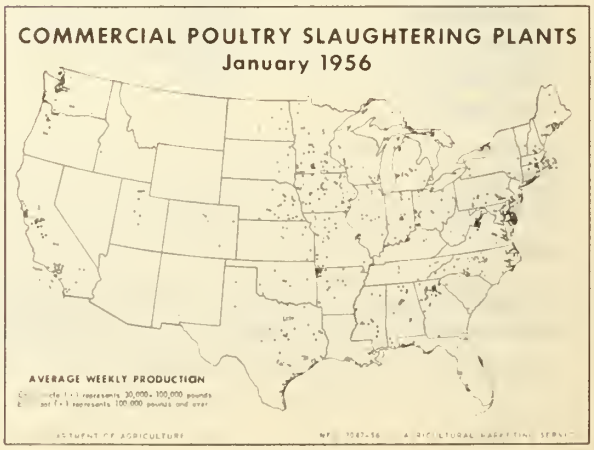


Figure 6

Table 20.- Eggs, shell: Reported receipts by State of origin, selected cities, 1955

(Including data for cover chart)

State of origin	Boston	New York	Philadelphia	Atlanta	Cleveland	Cincinnati	Chicago	St. Louis	San Francisco	Los Angeles
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Maine	322,845	6,926								
New Hampshire	424,791	11,732			100					
Vermont	30,265									
Massachusetts	315,373	38,176								
Rhode Island	9,200	10,194								
Connecticut	59,644	35,890								
New York	70,861	873,252	2,521		394		2			
New Jersey		866,994	193,436	300						
Pennsylvania	2,788	651,718	744,327				960			
Ohio	2,539	14,764			485,143	175,325	2,259			
Indiana	200	131,746		150	53,056	260,458	99,951	830		
Illinois	13,631	89,407	49,641	72,402	4,768	44,204	524,087	243,054	470	600
Michigan	1,080				71,940	55	2,510			
Wisconsin	1,562	4,419	3,923	1,735	8,405	4,613	1,207,957			600
Minnesota	69,042	766,154	126,061	41,797	113,018	15,213	985,417	1,500	29,006	73,519
Iowa	106,489	1,302,856	143,582	298,377	10,136	7,933	976,020	198,916	51,302	63,184
Missouri	231	3,179		1,491		1,759	7,563	412,348		2,400
N. Dakota		62					23,710			
S. Dakota	550	1,915	3,052			1,212	114,299		4,140	33,506
Nebraska		4,234	4,518	1,673		1,864	24,987	4,718		9,473
Kansas		1,078				395	3,965	550	97,565	6,704
Delaware		218	8,266							
Maryland		6,677	16,546							
Dist. of Col.			600							
Virginia		2,960	4,348			1,793				
West Virginia			20							
N. Carolina		4,304	97	337						
S. Carolina		3		504						
Georgia		517		193,314		500				
Florida		125								
Kentucky						17,065	5,187			
Tennessee				4,797				2,012		
Alabama				668						
Mississippi					160					
Arkansas								2,365		609
Louisiana										
Oklahoma								3,315		250
Texas										130
Montana									1,564	
Idaho									588	
Wyoming										
Colorado							485		20,530	847
New Mexico										
Arizona										
Utah									13,076	59,812
Nevada										21
Washington										
Oregon										
California									509,999	1,985,498
Canada	4,068	4,190			500					
Total of above	1,435,159	4,834,743	1,300,938	617,545	747,620	532,389	3,979,650	869,608	728,240	2,237,153

Table 21.- Numbers of young chickens and pullets on farms in relation to numbers of chickens raised and to sex of purchased chicks, available data, 1930 to date

Year	Chickens raised	Young chickens on farms, October 1		Pullets (laying and not yet laying) on farms, January 1 following		Sexed pullets as a percentage of farmers' total purchases of replacement chicks
		Total	As a percentage of chickens raised	Total 1/	As a percentage of chickens raised	
	Millions	Millions	Percent	Millions	Percent	Percent
1930	777	---	---	244	31.3	---
1931	709	362	51.1	230	32.4	---
1932	736	387	52.7	237	32.2	---
1933	750	384	51.2	238	31.8	---
1934	644	331	51.4	212	32.9	---
1935	658	346	52.5	226	34.4	---
1936	715	390	54.5	249	34.9	---
1937	601	334	55.5	215	35.8	---
1938	651	378	58.1	242	37.2	---
1939	697	398	57.2	254	36.4	---
1940	634	390	61.6	240	37.9	---
1941	745	441	59.2	278	37.3	---
1942	844	478	56.6	319	37.7	20.9
1943	1,001	544	54.3	350	34.9	17.2
1944	832	447	53.7	301	36.2	20.3
1945	890	508	57.0	322	36.2	18.5
1946	738	412	55.8	281	38.1	22.3
1947	719	412	57.3	278	38.6	26.0
1948	615	371	60.3	258	42.0	30.0
1949	705	399	56.6	287	40.7	31.0
1950	635	378	3/	258	3/	32.0
1951	663	397	3/	261	3/	33.0
1952	617	356	3/	238	3/	37.0
1953	609	379	3/	255	3/	42.0
1954	620	376	3/	257	3/	43.0
1955 2/	524	338	3/	238	3/	42.0
1956						4/43.0

1/ Including revisions.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Not computed on account of possible pending revisions in "chickens raised" and other figures.
4/ Intentions.

Table 22.- Weekly broiler placements in specialized areas; broiler prices and broiler-feed price ratios, Salisbury, Maryland, 1954 and 1955

Week ending		1954 Placements, 14 areas 1/ Weekly	1954 Placements, 14 areas 1/ Cumulative	1954 Broiler price, per pound, Salisbury 2/	1954 Broiler-feed price ratio, Salisbury 2/	1955 Placements, 22 States Weekly	1955 Placements, 22 States Cumulative	1955 Broiler price, per pound, Salisbury 2/	1955 Broiler-feed price ratio, Salisbury 2/
		Thou.	Thou.	Ct.	Lb. feed	Thou.	Thou.	Ct.	Lb. feed
January	1	16,269	16,269	22.5	4.4	14,698	14,698	22.3	4.5
	8	15,987	32,256	22.2	4.4	15,420	30,118	25.1	5.0
	15	15,280	47,536	24.3	4.8	14,964	45,082	27.4	5.5
	22	14,763	62,299	23.0	4.5	15,383	60,465	28.8	5.7
	29	15,547	77,846	22.3	4.3	17,425	77,890	28.5	5.7
February	5	16,016	93,862	20.9	4.0	19,039	96,929	26.9	5.4
	12	15,911	109,773	20.4	3.9	20,016	116,945	25.7	5.1
	19	15,892	125,670	21.1	4.1	20,148	137,093	25.4	5.1
	26	16,020	141,690	20.4	4.0	20,687	157,780	26.5	5.3
March	5	16,175	157,865	21.9	4.2	20,382	178,162	29.8	6.0
	12	16,549	174,414	21.9	4.2	19,779	197,941	31.1	6.3
	19	16,788	191,202	22.4	4.3	19,964	217,905	32.8	6.7
	26	17,400	208,602	24.1	4.6	20,745	238,650	30.3	6.2
April	2	17,232	225,834	24.4	4.7	21,637	260,287	32.6	6.6
	9	17,143	242,977	25.1	4.8	21,839	282,126	32.0	6.6
	16	17,397	260,374	23.9	4.6	22,306	304,432	28.9	5.9
	23	17,033	277,407	23.0	4.3	22,149	326,581	26.9	5.4
	30	16,558	293,965	21.6	4.0	22,406	348,987	24.2	4.9
May	7	17,004	310,969	21.8	4.1	22,518	371,505	25.2	5.2
	14	17,292	328,261	22.1	4.1	22,571	394,076	25.7	5.3
	21	16,303	344,564	24.5	4.6	22,767	416,843	27.2	5.5
	28	15,475	360,039	25.0	4.8	22,607	439,450	27.6	5.6
June	4	15,315	375,354	24.7	4.7	22,694	462,144	27.6	5.8
	11	15,721	391,075	25.4	4.8	22,774	484,918	28.1	5.9
	18	16,409	407,484	25.2	4.8	23,294	508,212	28.1	5.9
	25	16,445	423,929	25.1	4.7	22,619	530,831	27.8	5.8
July	2	16,543	440,472	24.3	4.6	22,701	553,532	26.8	5.6
	9	16,200	456,672	25.3	4.8	22,054	575,586	28.0	5.9
	16	16,647	473,319	25.5	4.9	22,351	597,937	27.3	5.7
	23	15,823	489,142	24.9	4.7	22,099	620,036	27.9	5.8
	30	15,848	504,990	25.2	4.8	21,700	641,736	29.0	6.0
August	6	15,213	520,203	25.0	4.8	20,799	662,535	28.0	5.9
	13	14,968	535,171	24.8	4.7	20,159	682,694	28.3	6.0
	20	15,342	550,513	25.3	4.8	19,429	702,123	28.2	5.9
	27	15,302	565,815	25.0	4.7	18,349	720,472	27.7	6.0
September	3	14,964	580,779	24.3	4.6	17,652	738,124	26.7	5.8
	10	15,079	595,858	24.1	4.6	17,605	755,729	26.9	5.8
	17	14,451	610,309	23.0	4.4	17,659	773,388	26.0	5.5
	24	14,406	624,715	20.1	4.1	17,708	791,096	23.8	5.1
October	1	14,254	638,969	19.2	3.9	17,998	809,094	23.2	5.0
	8	12,872	651,841	18.0	3.6	18,176	827,270	20.8	4.4
	15	12,688	664,529	20.8	4.2	18,288	845,558	21.7	4.6
	22	12,798	677,327	20.5	4.2	18,596	864,154	22.0	4.8
	29	12,845	690,172	22.6	4.7	18,780	882,934	20.3	4.4
November	5	12,782	702,954	21.8	4.4	18,982	901,916	18.7	4.1
	12	12,977	715,931	20.1	4.0	19,023	920,939	21.2	4.6
	19	13,838	729,769	18.6	3.7	19,595	940,534	21.6	4.8
	26	13,467	743,236	18.3	3.7	19,534	960,068	21.5	4.7
December	3	13,761	756,997	19.4	3.9	20,276	980,344	21.8	4.8
	10	12,759	769,756	19.1	3.8	20,447	1,000,791	19.7	4.4
	17	13,054	782,810	18.5	3.7	20,505	1,021,296	19.3	4.2
	24	10,018	792,828	18.4	3.7	20,737	1,042,033	19.0	4.2
	31					20,584	1,062,617	21.2	4.7
Total and average		792,828		22.5	4.4	1,062,617		25.9	5.4

1/ For weeks January 2 to July 10, includes only N. W. Arkansas; thereafter, entire State.
2/ For weeks ending on Thursday or Friday as published in weekly reports.

Table 23.- Weekly placements of broiler chicks in 22 States, 1955; annual totals, 1954 and 1955

Week ending	Maine	Connecticut	Pennsylvania	Indiana	Illinois	Missouri	Delaware	Maryland	Virginia	West Virginia	North Carolina
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Jan. 1	599	507	417	497	92	349	1,095	1,023	797	281	847
8	536	411	380	531	107	322	1,192	1,083	890	335	902
15	549	263	415	507	92	237	1,151	1,085	843	347	882
22	578	339	492	532	102	344	1,184	1,180	790	429	959
29	600	432	594	681	164	399	1,398	1,260	1,230	425	1,055
Feb. 5	608	529	608	749	231	477	1,723	1,412	1,341	450	1,129
12	624	580	701	701	157	592	1,925	1,279	1,431	563	1,200
19	625	593	718	655	202	599	1,939	1,356	1,318	540	1,146
26	633	637	720	689	197	616	1,851	1,435	1,434	558	1,193
Mar. 5	598	567	726	717	203	560	1,582	1,510	1,264	507	1,229
12	580	580	655	700	188	582	1,534	1,308	1,191	466	1,153
19	585	556	619	659	162	630	1,453	1,337	1,184	537	1,207
26	628	537	681	782	233	678	1,583	1,259	1,271	462	1,254
Apr. 2	612	644	755	704	181	607	1,692	1,392	1,265	511	1,393
9	669	459	700	677	197	701	1,800	1,314	1,340	495	1,338
16	696	472	693	843	210	707	1,636	1,227	1,378	582	1,397
23	662	522	701	805	203	623	1,636	1,334	1,285	578	1,326
30	675	594	721	822	209	759	1,880	1,324	1,343	524	1,411
May 7	764	473	685	802	230	659	1,829	1,320	1,477	598	1,415
14	697	552	716	882	232	649	1,787	1,361	1,315	611	1,425
21	691	649	715	791	184	605	1,628	1,395	1,447	550	1,473
28	714	584	719	718	203	704	1,659	1,450	1,357	588	1,477
June 4	655	630	687	792	227	641	1,814	1,359	1,328	509	1,482
11	644	622	774	776	248	607	1,831	1,180	1,291	544	1,523
18	714	659	747	729	201	651	1,755	1,527	1,346	503	1,606
25	726	638	614	652	176	642	1,869	1,298	1,361	504	1,550
July 2	694	562	642	798	165	614	1,811	1,518	1,292	506	1,546
9	668	455	661	864	174	648	1,671	1,268	1,344	514	1,568
16	782	572	653	873	216	615	1,567	1,421	1,261	526	1,510
23	712	539	572	780	282	696	1,661	1,248	1,447	466	1,436
30	823	487	606	853	185	638	1,529	1,294	1,249	567	1,591
Aug. 6	801	487	703	668	177	561	1,370	1,249	1,273	477	1,501
13	801	545	603	696	161	540	1,440	1,191	1,167	483	1,430
20	697	548	643	676	169	512	1,363	1,038	1,083	464	1,315
27	672	419	544	535	169	446	1,317	1,126	1,036	506	1,270
Sept. 3	683	476	580	503	162	407	1,227	1,155	961	410	1,307
10	684	475	540	512	163	454	1,122	1,098	1,062	372	1,230
17	640	463	564	606	166	450	1,251	1,049	959	489	1,198
24	691	451	562	609	130	483	1,203	1,019	1,082	458	1,203
Oct. 1	673	487	560	666	204	488	1,258	1,080	961	466	1,307
8	712	518	568	608	203	461	1,331	1,141	995	480	1,156
15	651	563	603	601	164	391	1,400	1,090	894	353	1,304
22	676	568	582	655	174	376	1,426	1,172	924	391	1,218
29	756	558	671	694	166	381	1,367	1,157	1,029	375	1,255
Nov. 5	764	589	625	771	130	438	1,295	1,109	1,063	513	1,295
12	733	481	617	756	135	457	1,326	1,156	1,085	426	1,231
19	729	650	699	808	205	494	1,250	1,152	1,076	397	1,347
26	742	495	594	787	170	543	1,468	1,091	986	406	1,285
Dec. 3	649	605	542	733	184	571	1,194	1,312	1,129	431	1,470
10	811	567	656	712	187	604	1,371	1,086	1,146	438	1,373
17	731	459	607	692	157	586	1,495	1,151	1,092	505	1,419
24	728	469	597	646	127	563	1,614	1,074	1,113	506	1,413
31	756	619	572	740	130	508	1,607	1,143	1,196	466	1,374
Total, 1955	36,121	28,136	33,319	37,235	9,486	28,865	80,360	65,596	62,422	25,388	69,524
Total, 1954	30,976	23,668	2/	37,122	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Percentage change from 1954	17	19	---	0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Continued -

Table 23.- Weekly placements of broiler chicks in 22 States, 1955; annual totals, 1954 and 1955 - Continued

Week ending	South Carolina	Georgia	Florida	Alabama	Mississippi	Arkansas 1/	Louisiana	Texas	Washington	Oregon	California
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Jan. 1	131	2,969	147	833	527	1,222	179	1,002	200	81	843
8	180	2,994	147	930	652	1,068	170	1,450	178	88	862
15	163	3,044	139	870	647	1,112	159	1,334	169	73	877
22	174	3,044	124	942	562	1,075	135	1,233	167	93	905
29	197	3,107	170	1,051	700	1,151	148	1,410	192	100	895
Feb. 5	190	3,270	186	1,213	715	1,393	229	1,408	169	103	840
12	212	3,343	201	1,245	788	1,508	224	1,479	186	113	964
19	235	3,443	188	1,200	806	1,486	219	1,498	219	143	960
26	214	3,393	183	1,127	829	1,617	247	1,029	216	189	1,080
Mar. 5	224	3,543	210	1,182	790	1,583	284	1,584	240	185	1,088
12	191	3,618	198	1,162	830	1,609	218	1,526	262	171	1,057
19	204	3,643	217	1,109	873	1,628	247	1,594	283	143	1,094
26	220	3,742	209	1,128	837	1,735	289	1,064	216	135	1,202
Apr. 2	205	3,892	213	1,229	891	1,937	314	1,646	237	146	1,171
9	203	4,042	208	1,242	863	1,940	249	1,816	263	102	1,161
16	230	4,092	217	1,305	941	1,892	273	1,834	285	143	1,247
23	352	4,142	201	1,354	918	2,022	253	1,724	226	131	1,151
30	245	4,192	180	1,370	869	1,819	271	1,056	233	149	1,154
May 7	228	4,142	192	1,327	860	1,896	283	1,819	225	147	1,147
14	244	4,217	202	1,270	878	1,910	255	1,767	244	187	1,170
21	248	4,242	181	1,363	931	1,969	279	1,872	197	173	1,184
28	253	4,242	214	1,402	925	1,890	251	1,766	217	140	1,134
June 4	272	4,266	216	1,403	945	1,932	258	1,769	210	173	1,126
11	251	4,291	216	1,339	839	1,998	335	1,869	263	154	1,179
18	230	4,341	230	1,404	867	2,007	279	1,911	245	156	1,186
25	210	4,242	217	1,461	855	1,986	317	1,818	253	162	1,068
July 2	225	4,192	207	1,403	923	2,025	274	1,799	225	142	1,138
9	216	4,142	218	1,317	915	1,998	212	1,840	212	145	1,004
16	250	4,092	191	1,347	959	2,074	231	1,774	255	143	1,039
23	198	4,141	187	1,478	866	1,973	288	1,707	212	179	1,031
30	184	3,991	211	1,291	885	1,873	304	1,690	216	151	1,082
Aug. 6	174	3,940	206	1,310	810	1,661	261	1,727	200	184	1,059
13	163	3,892	213	1,189	814	1,614	249	1,595	187	119	1,067
20	151	3,790	192	1,182	796	1,502	286	1,673	199	115	1,035
27	164	3,593	222	1,126	710	1,330	190	1,621	173	105	1,075
Sept. 3	169	3,493	205	1,042	657	1,221	245	1,457	175	129	988
10	196	3,594	189	1,092	629	1,294	233	1,447	171	119	929
17	175	3,543	164	1,087	593	1,350	216	1,576	171	96	853
24	165	3,441	168	1,111	685	1,394	210	1,511	164	95	873
Oct. 1	183	3,494	166	1,065	689	1,366	228	1,558	141	117	841
8	220	3,545	152	1,052	688	1,471	216	1,581	99	117	862
15	248	3,542	157	1,069	680	1,536	251	1,720	121	93	857
22	223	3,600	179	1,089	741	1,564	288	1,724	163	68	795
29	224	3,453	187	1,110	[illegible]	1,460	261	1,661	130	94	935
Nov. 5	224	3,225	198	1,152	843	1,495	330	1,763	140	98	922
12	207	3,480	171	1,192	764	1,592	277	1,749	194	101	893
19	192	3,303	206	1,284	754	1,750	296	1,796	183	113	911
26	218	3,475	165	1,253	905	1,707	324	1,785	154	90	891
Dec. 3	234	3,540	210	1,339	862	1,859	290	1,775	174	150	1,023
10	229	3,582	231	1,375	918	1,797	266	1,838	128	132	1,000
17	214	3,610	242	1,368	913	1,824	291	1,811	222	121	995
24	241	3,824	213	1,449	901	1,807	291	1,802	199	141	1,019
31	216	3,765	181	1,323	868	1,730	290	1,734	203	140	1,023
Total, 1955	11,287	196,838	10,249	64,628	42,768	87,652	13,463	87,912	10,600	6,877	53,885
Total, 1954	2/	160,151	11,529	50,931	41,629	2/	2/	73,282	2/	5,841	54,698
Percentage change from 1954	---	23	-11	27	3	---	---	20	---	18	-1

1/ For weeks January 2 to July 10, includes only N.W. Arkansas. Weeks thereafter for entire State. 2/ Not available.

Table 24.- Turkeys: Official testings of birds for inclusion in breeder flocks, and poult production in commercial hatcheries, by breed types, and subsequent sales from farms, monthly January 1953 to date

Year and month	Heavy breeds					Light breeds					Light and heavy breeds combined						
	Birds officially tested		Poults hatched		Turkeys raised in calendar year*	Birds officially tested		Poults hatched		Turkeys raised in calendar year*	Birds officially tested		Poults hatched		Turkeys raised in calendar year*	Monthly distribution of sales from farms: percentage of total sales from each year's crop	
	During the month	Cumulative for years beginning July 1	During the month	Cumulative for years beginning Sept. 1		During the month	Cumulative for years beginning July 1	During the month	Cumulative for years beginning Sept. 1		During the month	Cumulative for years beginning July 1	During the month	Cumulative for years beginning Sept. 1		As reported by farmers	As computed from weekly slaughter report
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Mil.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Mil.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.
1953																	
Jan.	297	2,104	858			86	374	968			383	2,478	1,826				
Feb.	109	2,214	2,819			58	432	1,201			167	2,645	4,020				
Mar.	31	2,245	8,776			12	444	1,667			43	2,689	10,443				
Apr.	6	2,250	12,762			17	461	2,270			23	2,711	15,032				
May	1/	2,250	12,669			6	467	2,964			6	2,717	15,633				
June	1	2,251	6,321			25	492	2,649			26	2,743	8,970				
July	13	13	1,150		40.9	38	38	1,804		15.6	51	51	2,954		56.5	2/9.0	
Aug.	22	35	123			57	95	1,103			79	130	1,226			6.6	
Sept.	100	135	11	11		95	191	442	442		195	326	453	453		13.6	
Oct.	353	488	25	36		112	302	408	850		464	790	433	886		15.6	
Nov.	591	1,079	65	101		90	393	671	1,521		682	1,472	736	1,622		30.2	
Dec.	638	1,717	345	446		72	465	1,306	2,827		710	2,182	1,651	3,273		20.2	
1954																	
Jan.	326	2,043	1,217	1,663		71	536	1,820	4,647		398	2,579	3,037	6,310		3/4.8	2
Feb.	144	2,187	3,374	5,037		82	618	1,673	6,320		226	2,805	5,047	11,357			1
Mar.	35	2,223	9,369	14,406		44	662	1,786	8,106		80	2,885	11,155	22,512			1
Apr.	4	2,227	13,855	28,261		11	673	2,344	10,450		15	2,900	16,199	38,711			1
May	4	2,231	13,449	41,710		19	692	3,295	13,745		23	2,923	16,744	55,455			4
June	8	2,239	7,743	49,453		67	759	3,024	16,769		75	2,998	10,767	66,222			3
July	30	30	1,446	50,899	42.9	79	79	2,446	19,215	18.1	109	109	3,892	70,114	61.0	2/9.9	4
Aug.	48	78	88	50,987		68	147	1,338	20,553		116	225	1,426	71,540		6.8	8
Sept	124	202	25	25		68	214	690	690		191	417	715	715		11.1	12
Oct.	386	588	61	86		44	258	675	1,365		430	846	736	1,451		17.3	21
Nov.	583	1,171	179	265		24	282	1,041	2,406		607	1,453	1,220	2,671		30.2	26
Dec.	644	1,815	539	804		73	355	1,655	4,061		717	2,170	2,194	4,865		19.6	17
1955																	
Jan.	320	2,135	1,196	2,000		52	407	1,323	5,384		372	2,542	2,519	7,384		3/5.1	3
Feb.	132	2,266	2,652	4,652		72	479	1,093	6,477		204	2,746	3,745	11,129			1
Mar.	47	2,313	7,644	12,296		37	516	1,080	7,557		83	2,829	8,724	19,853			1
Apr.	12	2,325	12,635	24,931		22	538	1,717	9,274		34	2,863	14,352	34,205			2
May	5	2,329	14,546	39,477		13	551	2,362	11,636		17	2,880	16,908	51,113			4
June	30	2,360	8,814	48,291		24	574	2,559	14,195		54	2,934	11,373	62,486			3
July	31	31	1,945	50,236		32	32	2,205	16,400		63	63	4,150	66,636			4
Aug.	60	91	279	50,515		43	75	1,244	17,644		103	166	1,523	68,159			7
Sept.	169	261	116	116		50	125	441	441		220	386	557	557			12
Oct.	374	645	161	277		47	172	311	752		431	817	472	1,029			22
Nov.	633	1,278	372	649		36	208	575	1,327		669	1,486	947	1,976			24
Dec.	693	1,971	966	1,615		74	282	938	2,265		767	2,253	1,904	3,880			17
1956																	
Jan.	385	2,356	1,888	3,503		54	336	886	3,151		439	2,692	2,774	6,654			

1/ Less than 0.5 thousand. 2/ "Before August 1." 3/ "January or later."

*These numbers are to be revised in late March.

Table 25.- Turkeys raised and related data; available data, 1930 to date

Year	Absolute numbers: Turkeys raised	Absolute numbers: Turkey-feed price ratio 1/	Absolute numbers: Breeder hens on farms, Jan. 1	Change from preceding year, Number: Turkeys raised 2/	Change from preceding year, Number: Turkey-feed price ratio 1/	Change from preceding year, Number: Breeder hens on farms, Jan. 1 2/	Change from preceding year, Percent: Turkeys raised 2/	Change from preceding year, Percent: Turkey-feed price ratio 1/	Change from preceding year, Percent: Farmers' intentions to raise turkeys	Change from preceding year, Percent: Breeder hens on farms, Jan. 1 2/
	Mil.	Lb.	Mil.	Mil.	Lb.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
					a. All turkeys					
1930	17	11.2		-1	-1.9		-6	-15		
1931	18	10.7		1	-0.5		5	-4		
1932	22	14.6		4	3.9		22	36		
1933	23	11.7		1	-2.9		4	-20		
1934	22	8.0		-2	-3.7		-7	-32		
1935	21	7.6		-1	-.4		-4	-5		
1936	28	12.2		7	4.6		34	61		
1937	26	6.6	3.5	-2	-5.6		-8	-46		
1938	27	10.7	3.2	1	4.1	-0.3	4	62	6	-7
1939	34	12.5	3.9	7	1.8	.7	25	17	27	21
1940	34	9.4	4.6	3/	-3.1	.7	1	-25	5	18
1941	33	9.4	3.8	-1	0	-.8	-4	0	-3	-16
1942	33	10.1	4.0	3/	.7	.1	4/	7	8	3
1943	32	12.4	3.9	-1	2.3	-.1	-2	23	12	-2
1944	35	11.3	4.2	3	-1.1	.3	10	-9	2	8
1945	43	11.8	4.5	8	.5	.3	22	4	8	7
1946	40	11.1	4.8	-3	-.7	.3	-6	-6	-5	7
1947	34	10.2	3.8	-6	-.9	-1.1	-15	-8	-16	-22
1948	32	7.7	2.5	-2	-2.5	-1.2	-7	-25	-18	-33
1949	41	13.1	3.1	10	5.4	.6	31	70	25	24
1950	44	10.2	3.3	3	-2.9	.1	6	-22	1	4
1951	52	9.0	3.3	9	-1.2	3/	20	-12	1	1
1952	61	9.2	3.8	8	.2	.5	16	2	11	16
1953	57	8.2	3.4	-4	-1.0	-.5	-6	-11	-8	-12
1954 5/	66	9.1	3.4	9	.9	.1	15	11	7	2
1955 5/	63	7.5	3.0	-3	-1.6	-.4	-4	-18	-4	-12
1956		9.1	3.2		1.6	.2		21	6	7
					b. Heavy-breed turkeys					
1953	6/		2.9						-3	
1954 5/	47		2.7	5		-.2	13		6	-5
1955 5/	47		2.5	3/		-.2	0		0	-9
1956			2.7			.2			14	10
					c. Light-breed turkeys					
1953	6/		0.5						-23	
1954 5/	19		7	3		.2	22		9	44
1955 5/	16		.5	-3		-.2	-15		-11	-24
1956			.5			3/			-16	-8

1/ Weighted average of monthly ratios as follows: 1930-44, preceding October, 1; preceding November, 4; preceding December, 4; January, 1. 1945 to date, preceding October, 2; preceding November, 4; preceding December, 3; January, 1.

2/ Computed from unrounded data.

3/ Change smaller than 0.5.

4/ Less than 0.05.

5/ Preliminary.

6/ Percentage changes indicated in Farm Production, Disposition of Turkeys, March 1955 and adjusted to 57.1 million, would indicate 41.7 million heavy-breed turkeys raised in 1953, and 15.4 million light-breeds.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-PES-182-3-56

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)
Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

RALPH B NESTLER
OFFICE OF EXPT STATIONS USDA
9-23-48
FNS-6